

REMARKS

The Examiner begins by asserting Fig. 2 should be designated as "PRIOR ART." In view of the comments in the specification (*e.g.*, at page 8, lines 2-4), and the suggestion of the Examiner, Applicant has now designated Fig. 2 as "PRIOR ART."

I. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 have been rejected as being obvious over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of JP '261. Claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of JP '261 and JP '179.

A. The Examiner's Position

The Examiner refers to Figs. 2 and 3 and pages 3-5 of the specification for admitting that each limitation of claim 1, except for the opaque cover, is prior art. The Examiner then cites JP '261 for the disclosure of a CCD chip having an opaque cover, specifically a low reflective face 2C made from a black Alumite treatment. The Examiner argues from JP '261 that it would be obvious to place an opaque cover over the light shield. With respect to claim 3, the Examiner cites JP '179 for the disclosure of a protective layer and argues that it would be obvious to place a protective layer between the light shield and the opaque layer.

B. Applicant's Response

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the present amendment of claim 1 to recite that the opaque cover "extends into the aperture of the light shield and forms an eave on the edge of the aperture of the light shield." This amendment of claim 1 is supported by the original disclosure, *e.g.*, claim 4 and page 9, lines 25-10:1, and its entry is requested.

The amendment of claim 1 also overcomes the prior art rejection because nothing in the references discloses or suggests this feature or the resulting benefit of blocking “escaping lateral light,” as explained at greater length on pages 9 and 10 of the specification.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned amendment and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant’s undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs.2. This sheet replaces the original sheet as the Examiner suggests in the Office Action dated December 14, 2004.

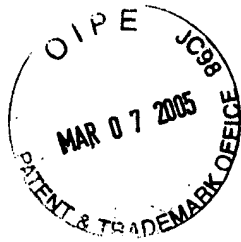
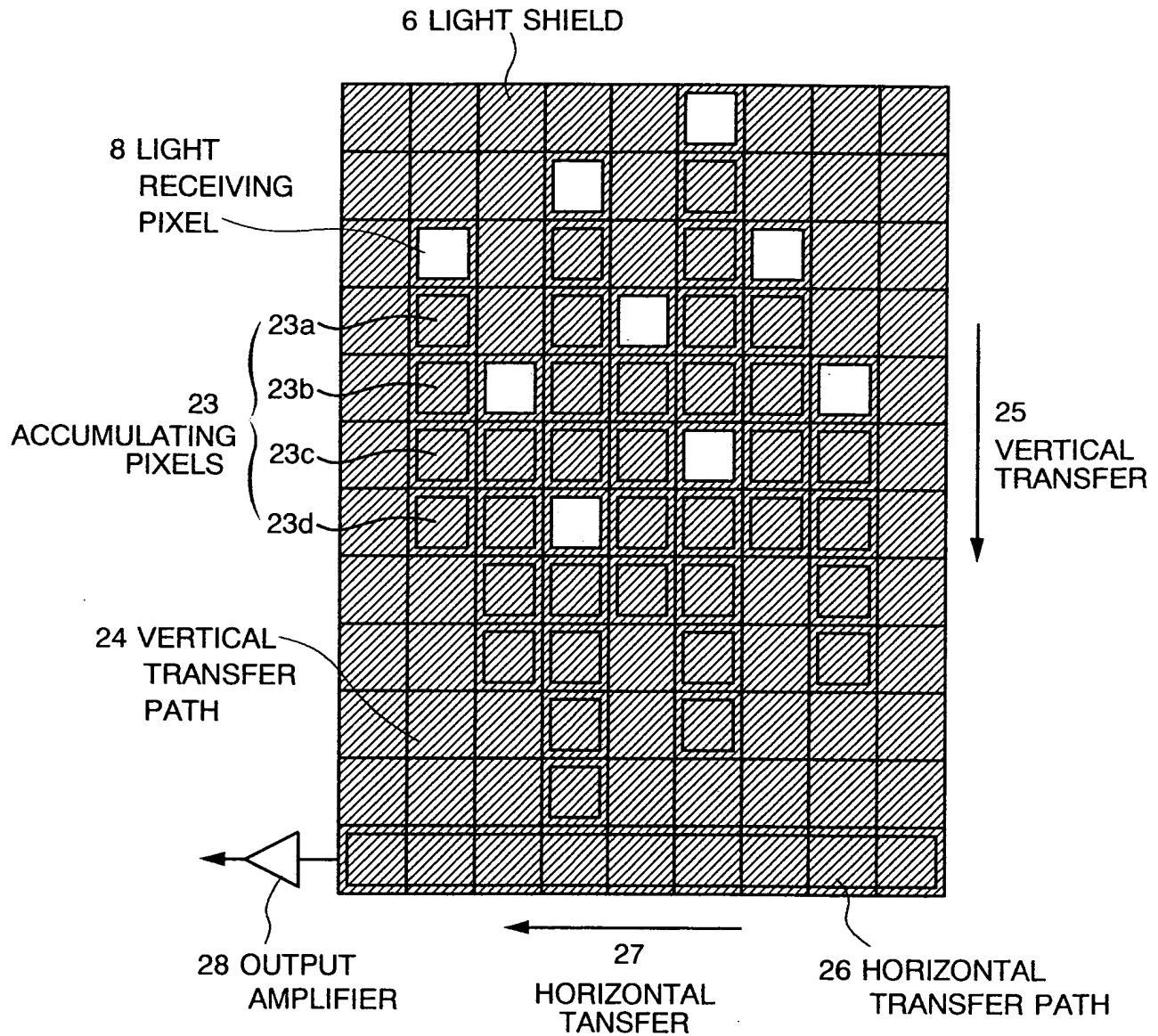


Fig. 2



PRIOR ART